

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA
CHARLESTON DIVISION**

IN RE: AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAMS PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION)
) MDL No. 2:18-mn-2873-RMG
)
) ORDER
)
) This Order Relates to
) Case No. 2:23-cv-6465-RMG
)
)
)

Before the Court is Plaintiff's motion to amend the complaint. (Dkt. No. 7887). The motion is authorized by Plaintiffs' Co-Lead Counsel. (*Id.* at 1).

I. Background

Plaintiff states his lawsuit "involves the contamination of the Plaintiff through the use of PFAS-containing materials in protective firefighter's turnout gear and PFAS-containing firefighting foams that were manufactured by the Defendants." (Dkt. No. 7887-1 at 1).

Plaintiff moves to remove certain claims and supplement others, correct certain defendants' names, and clarify certain allegations. (*Id.* at 1-2). "Defendants do not oppose Plaintiff's request for leave to amend complaint where Plaintiff has here agreed that no Defendant, by virtue of not opposing this Motion, is waiving any defense including without limitation the defense of the lack of personal jurisdiction, and that all settled parties reserve the right to challenge at an appropriate time whether any of the claims might be subject to the releases under relevant Settlement Agreements." (Dkt. No. 7887 at 1).

II. Legal Standard

After the time has passed to amend a pleading as a matter of course, “a party may amend its pleading only with the opposing party's written consent or the court's leave. The district court should freely give leave when justice so requires.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a)(2). Rule 15(a) is a “liberal rule [that] gives effect to the federal policy in favor of resolving cases on their merits instead of disposing of them on technicalities.” *Laber v. Harvey*, 438 F.3d 404, 426 (4th Cir. 2006) (en banc). The “district court may deny a motion to amend when the amendment would be prejudicial to the opposing party, the moving party has acted in bad faith, or the amendment would be futile.” *Equal Rights Ctr. v. Niles Bolton Assocs.*, 602 F.3d 597, 602-03 (4th Cir. 2010).

III. Discussion

Having carefully reviewed the proposed amended complaint and considered the basis for its allegations, the Court finds that the permissive standard imposed by Rule 15(a) allows for amendment in these circumstances. There is no indication that amending would prejudice the current defendants. *See Davis v. Piper Aircraft Corp.*, 615 F.2d 606, 613 (4th Cir. 1980) (“[A]bsence of prejudice, though not alone determinative, will normally warrant granting leave to amend.”). There is similarly no reasonable basis to find that Plaintiff seeks to amend in bad faith. Accordingly, leave to amend is warranted.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the motion to amend (Dkt. No. 7887) is **GRANTED** and Plaintiff is directed to promptly file the amended complaint.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Richard Mark Gergel
Richard Mark Gergel
United States District Judge

September 17, 2025

Charleston, South Carolina